



ATF News

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GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON IN LATIN KINGS GUN CASE

CHICAGO -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, today made the following announcement:

Yesterday, United States District Judge George W. Lindberg sentenced OSCAR DIAZ, also known as "Cuz," 33, of Blue Island, Illinois, to federal prison for his role in transferring a firearm to a felon, knowing the firearm would be used in a crime of violence. Diaz was sentenced to a total of 57 months in federal prison without parole, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment.

Diaz pled guilty to the charges on May 23, 2007. In pleading guilty, he admitted that he was the "Inca," or leader of the Southwest Region of the Latin Kings street gang from at least July 2006 until December 5, 2006. In November 2006, Diaz was approached by another Latin King who needed a firearm in order to collect a debt that he was owed, and who was willing to commit murder, if necessary to collect the debt. Diaz knew the Latin King was a felon. Nevertheless, Diaz directed a subordinate Latin King member to provide the felon with a firearm. A few weeks later, the felon told Diaz that the firearm had to be disposed of because "it had a murder on it." The plea agreement indicated that Diaz did not express surprise at these statements, and merely advised the felon that he would have to pay for the

firearm. The plea agreement further stated that Diaz was responsible for ordering “violations,” or beatings of other gang members. At Diaz’s sentencing hearing yesterday, Judge Lindberg also found that Diaz transferred an additional four firearms to other Latin King members, knowing they would be used unlawfully.

The Chicago Office of ATF investigated this case. Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew C. Porter, Nancy Miller, and Meghan C. Morrissey prosecuted the case for the government.

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